

President Biden wants to literally make millionaires out of people who have violated Federal law.

What could be more unfair and unjust to law-abiding, tax-paying American citizens?

And talk about yet another massive incentive for more and more people to come here illegally: On President Biden's watch, we have already seen an alltime high in illegal border crossings, combined with a decade low in arrests in the interior.

So Democrats have already created a major border crisis, and now they want to cut seven-figure checks to illegal border crossers?

Democrats are already trying to send monthly welfare payments to people who are here illegally. That is in the reckless taxing-and-spending spree they are putting together behind closed doors.

But who needs \$300 a month when President Biden wants to send these folks \$450,000 per person?

That is four and a half times the payment that the Department of Defense sends to the survivors of servicemembers who were killed in action. Fallen troops' families get \$100,000 from the Pentagon. But the Biden administration wants to give illegal immigrants \$450,000?

This is an especially extreme example of a big error that Democrats continue to make over and over again.

The left mistakenly thinks that a compassionate border means a weak border. They think compassion requires weakness—weak security, weak enforcement, weak on upholding the rule of law. And now, apparently, we are a cruel country unless we hand out a million dollars per family to illegal immigrants who sue America.

But the entire concept is dead wrong. It is not compassion to lure people from all over the world through dangerous journeys with the promise of open-borders socialism. In fact, the government paying out six-figure sums that multiply with every additional child in tow will only incentivize the riskiest and most dangerous kinds of illegal immigration. We will be guaranteeing that even more children are dragged along the dangerous journey.

Honestly, this absurd idea feels like a satirical policy proposal that Republicans would have invented to make a parody out of the radical left. Oh, and the next thing you know, they will be sending out million-dollar checks to illegal immigrants. But this is literally what the Biden administration wants to do, according to reports that they have not denied.

Out in the real world, American families already have enough reasons to worry about the administration's spending habits. The inflation kicked off by Democrats' springtime binge has wiped out wage gains and made family budgets even harder to square.

One recent report on soaring food prices included this quote from a shopper out in Indiana: "You have to pick

and choose. Before, you didn't have to do that. You could just go in and buy a week or two's worth of food. Now, I can barely buy one week's worth."

That is a sobering reality that too many Americans are dealing with, and it isn't limited to the grocery store. Folks in my hometown of Louisville have seen gas prices jump a full dollar in the past year. Feeding a family is getting harder. Filling up the tank is getting harder. Even heating a home this winter is shaping up to be 30 percent more expensive than last year.

Even during a time of calm and prosperity, writing million-dollar checks to illegal immigrants would be an insult to American families, but it is 10 times more insulting at a time like this, when Democrats' policies are forcing so many households to tighten their belts.

These are the same Democrats who are putting finishing touches on yet another multimillion dollar—multitrillion dollar reckless taxing-and-spending spree. So in the days and weeks ahead, when the far left tries to sell America on historic inflationary spending, historic tax hikes, and more micromanaging of American life by politicians, just remember, these are the same politicians who have proposed giving millions of dollars of taxpayers' money to people who broke Federal law to enter our country.

The same people who think that is a great idea want license to transform our entire economy.

Look around. I am not sure how much more of this transformation American families can stomach.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Jonathan Davidson, of Maryland, to be Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

NOMINATION OF TOBY J. HEYTENS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Toby Heytens to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

He is an accomplished appellate advocate, with a depth of experience and a fair-mindedness that would make him an asset to the Fourth Circuit. He started as a clerk on the Third Circuit, completed a prestigious fellowship at the Justice Department's Office of the

Solicitor General, and then he clerked for Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Not a bad resume.

After a few years in private practice, Mr. Heytens rejoined the Justice Department as an assistant to the Solicitor General. Most recently, he was Solicitor General for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

He is a distinguished academic—taught at Cornell Law School, joined the faculty at UVA Law School, codirected the Supreme Court Litigation Clinic.

Mr. Heytens has personally argued 10 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court—there aren't many people who can say that—and handled the briefing in more than 50 other cases before the Court, and the breadth of these cases is impressive.

With such credentials, it is not surprising he enjoys the strong support of Senators KAINE and WARNER.

He has been unanimously rated "well qualified" by the American Bar Association, and his nomination is supported by leaders in the legal community, including three former Republican Solicitors General under President George W. Bush.

He is a dedicated public servant. I will be voting for him, and I hope my colleagues will join me.

COVID-19

Madam President, on another matter, this weekend saw the happy return of a tradition in many neighborhoods.

Last night, my senatorial assignment was to be at the front door of my home in Springfield, IL, and pass out candy to the trick-or-treaters.

After a year off because of COVID, Halloween was back. We had at least 80, maybe 100, kids show up, and they were all having a great time, as we all remember our own youth.

What a difference vaccines can make. Slowly but surely, we are putting this pandemic behind us. And after a difficult year-plus of remote learning, kids are going back to school across America.

Three days ago, we received some long-awaited news that will enable parents to breathe another sigh of relief and allow children to be safely vaccinated. The FDA authorized Pfizer vaccinations for kids between ages 5 and 11.

While it is true that healthy children generally are at lower risk from this virus, they are not immune, and testing had to take place, and it has taken place. The new lower-dose COVID vaccine can protect our kids—and grandkids, I might add. And I want to do everything I can to make sure that happens.

I usually tell the story, which dates me, but I know the reality of my impression on those who are watching. I have been around a few years, and I remember in the 1950s, when we were scared to death of polio, and along came Jonas Salk—God bless his memory—with a new vaccine, and we all lined up, rolled up our sleeves, and got